

DISAPPEARANCE OF A YOUNG MAN

Ralph Johnson May Have
Been Murdered and
Cast Into Water

FIND HIS GOLD RING

Missing Man Left This City at Late
Hour Thursday Night for his Home
Across Hunting Creek.

That Ralph Johnston, the 21-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Johnston, who live across Hunting Creek, in Fairfax county, a short distance of Alexandria, was robbed and murdered and his body thrown in Hunting Creek, is the belief of his parents, who have made a vain search for the young man who has been missing since Thursday. An all day search yesterday resulted in the finding of a gold ring which had been worn by the missing man lying in the snow on the Hunting Creek Bridge. A hole made in the ice, a few feet south of the bridge which is now partially frozen over, leads the man's father to think the body lies below the ice of the creek, where it will remain until the ice thaws out.

Young Johnston was last seen in Alexandria late Thursday night. He is employed at the dairy farm of Carroll Wolf, in Fairfax county, and was paid off on Thursday. He came to Alexandria to buy some Christmas presents, and late at night started to walk to his home. He stopped at O'Sullivan's store on the outskirts of Alexandria on his way home.

Johnston is declared to be a man of exemplary habits and has never stayed away from home at night before. His mother is frantic with grief and is confident that her son has been killed.

A hat was found in the snow near the end of the bridge yesterday, but an examination disclosed that it was not Johnston's.

ITALY AGGRESSIVE.

Sailors from Warship Siege Island in
The Adriatic.

Rome, Dec. 26—Italy yesterday landed a company of sailors from one of its warships at Avlona, an Adriatic seaport of Albanian. The sailors now occupy the Albanian port.

Naval forces were landed at Avlona by Italy on October 26, but at that time the Italian government made it plain that the occupation had no territorial or political significance. Yesterday's landing carried with it all significance of a naval occupation by force, although the landing was unopposed.

Italy's step can hardly fail to irritate Austria and lead to Italy's intervention in the war.

For the present and possibly for times, Avlona is much an Italian city as Naples.

There is no longer doubt that the revolutionary movement in Albania is spreading rapidly and that Austria's jealousy of Italy is back of the plot. It is known here that Austria has been arming the rebels and supplying them with funds in the hope that Italy would be prevented from gaining actual control of Albania while Austria is engaged in the war.

It is understood that the landing of troops in Albania will mean active participation by Italy in the general war.

With Hungary within a few days of demand from Italy an explanation of the reason that sailors were ashore at Avlona and will very likely insist that the force be withdrawn immediately.

SUITS FOR DIVORCE.

In the Corporation Court Thursday suits for divorce were filed by Mrs. Delaney against her husband, Mr. Delaney, and by Fannie Wood Mason from her husband, Mr. Mason. In both cases the suits were represented by Attorney Robinson Moncre.

NEWS OF THE DAY

Heavy rains have caused a landslide at Valmontone, a city of about 4,000 inhabitants 30 miles southeast of Rome. Part of the city was covered by the landslide and many buildings collapsed. Forty persons were buried beneath the ruins. In the surrounding country the rivers have overflowed their banks, causing large losses of property.

George W. Weaver, 35 years old, a farmer living in Hickey lane northeast, near Mount Olivet Cemetery, Washington, shot and killed his wife, Mrs. Minnie Weaver, 25 years old, with a shotgun yesterday morning and then committed suicide. Whether Weaver shot the woman accidentally or pulled the trigger with intent probably never will be known, for the charge entered her heart and she died without a word.

A wireless message to Valparaiso, from the Chilean torpedo gunboat Tome reports the British cruiser Newcastle cannonading 15 miles from Valparaiso. It is supposed she has engaged the German cruiser Dresden and converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich. A British squadron and Japanese warships are known to be cruising not far from this port.

Pope Benedict devoted the greater part of Christmas to developing his plan for the exchange of wounded prisoners. After religious service he spent some time with relatives. He expressed great satisfaction over the many messages he has received, especially from America, giving strong adherence to his efforts to lessen the cruelties of the war and hasten peace. The Pope personally is convinced, the cardinals say, that the war will not last a year. He counts upon the efforts of neutral countries to hasten peace before 1915 ends, and is determined not to cease in his own efforts.

Travelers reaching Athens from Constantinople report that the Turkish authorities are removing the state archives to an inland place of safety.

The Austro-Hungarian ambassador, Dr. Constantin Dumba, issued a statement in Washington last night denying as absolutely unfounded reports that Austria-Hungary is tired of the war or has made unofficial peace overtures to the allies.

John Lane, major general of artillery under General Robert E. Lee, in the civil war, died yesterday at Lewiston, Idaho. He was a son of General Joseph Lane, former United States senator and first governor of Oregon.

Owing to the rejection of the measure for an increase in the army, the Emperor of Japan yesterday dissolved the imperial diet, thus upholding the program of the ministry for military development.

The official press bureau at Berlin yesterday made public a dispatch from Copenhagen that Russia has ceded the island of Sakhalin to Japan in exchange for heavy guns. Sakhalin lies in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Siberia. Russia owned the northern portion and Japan the southern portion. It has an area of 29,000 square miles and a population of 32,000.

Another of the German emperor's speeches to his troops in the east has just reached Rotterdam. After announcing that he brings greetings from the troops in the west, he continues: "To the enemy I bring bullet and bayonet. In any case, the enemy will be beaten."

Germany has called up the untrained men of the landsturm born between 1869 and 1876. Failure to obey, says the Handelsblad, is punishable with from six months' to 5 years' imprisonment. All of the boys in the German schools have been put under military training, which indicates that the German government believes that the great war will last for some time to come. Approximately 12,000 boys in the Berlin schools alone are receiving military instructions from officers who are too old to go to the front.

Norfolk Oysters in all styles at the Rammel.

FRENCH SHELLING METZ DEFENSES

Allies Advancing Their Line
Beyond Village of
Aranville.

FURIOUS FIGHTING.

No Cessation Christmas Day—All
German Assaults Said to Have
Been Repulsed.

Paris, Dec. 26—The outer defenses of the fortress of Metz are reported today to be under fire from the French artillery.

An offensive movement started early in December against Metz is declared to have resulted in advancing the French lines beyond the village of Aranville and through the forest of Lepietre.

Only extremely bitter fighting have the French lines been advanced and the Germans cleared from the heights within range of the outer forts, but French guns are now declared to have been brought up and the bombardment begun.

There was little cessation of fighting along the battle front during Christmas day. In Belgium the Germans made several attempts to regain positions lost during the last week's fighting, but all were repulsed.

The British, French and Belgian commanders endeavored to give their men every possible opportunity to celebrate Christmas, but mining operations and the bombardment of the German lines proceeded throughout the day.

BLIZZARD SWEEPING COAST

Bitter Gale From Northwest Drives
Ships to Shelter.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 26—The Atlantic coast from Beaufort to Delaware Breakwater was at the mercy of a northwest blizzard last night.

The storm first developed into a northeast blow yesterday morning, accompanied by heavy rain. In the afternoon the wind shifted to the northwest and rain gave way to snow. Later last night sleet began falling and the mercury dropped to 25 degrees with lower temperatures reported north of the Virginia Capes.

The wind at Cape Henry reached a velocity of 42 miles, and the weather was so thick that ships passing in the Chesapeake Bay were obscured from the view of the observer at that point. Scores of vessels of every description are at anchor in Hampton Roads awaiting fair weather.

The Government wireless station last night sent storm warnings broadcast over the sea.

HOSPITAL BOARD TO MEET

Worth Hulfish, chairman of the board of trustees of the Alexandria Hospital, has issued a call for a special meeting of the board of trustees to be held in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce on Monday at 8 o'clock. As an important change to the by laws will be considered and other matters of importance brought before the board, a full attendance is urged.

HOSPITAL BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Alexandria Hospital will be held in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, Monday, December 28th 1914, at 8 o'clock for the purpose of considering changes in the by laws and for such other business as may be properly presented.

Arthur Herbert, Jr., Secretary.

CRYSTAL RESTAURANT

Come and try our Christmas Dinner. Wish you a Merry Christmas.
126 S. Royal

AT THE CHURCHES.

Christmas music at Second Presbyterian Church tomorrow morning and evening will be rendered by the choir composed of the following:

Soprano—Misses Janet Gronau, Mary Moore, Martha Allison, Lillian Allison, and Mrs. R. Lee Field. Alto—Mrs. Ruth Field and Miss Mary Callahan.

Tenors—Mr. John Scott and Mr. Stephen Field. Basses—Mr. George B. Kennedy, director, and Mr. Richardson.

Organist—Miss Edith Rothford. Christmas Anthems—"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" James H. Rogers.

"And suddenly there was with the Angels"—Will C. King. "And there were Shepherds"—Harry Rowe. "Proclaim Him ye Heavens."

The Men's Meeting will be held in the Westminster Building tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The speaker will be Mr. William Knowles Cooper, General Secretary of the Y. M. C. of Washington, D. C. The men of the city are invited.

At the Second Presbyterian Church tomorrow there will be preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. John Lee Allison. Morning theme "Christmas—Its Message and Meaning." Evening subject, evangelistic.

Christ Church.
Rev. William J. Morton, rector. Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Grace Church.
Rev. Edgar Carpenter, rector. Holy Communion 7:30 a. m. Sunday school, 9:30. Morning prayer and sermon 11:00. Evening prayer and sermon 7:30 p. m.

St. Mary's Church.
First mass at 7 a. m., children's mass 9, Sunday School 9:30, late mass and sermon 10:30, baptisms, 3:30, evening services and benediction 4 o'clock p. m. Mass every Sunday morning St. Rita's Chapel, 3 o'clock at Mount Ida. Masses week mornings 6:30 and 7 o'clock.

St. Paul's Church.
Rev. P. P. Phillips, rector. Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Lutheran Church.
Rev. C. F. Brandt, pastor. Services at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m.

Second Presbyterian Church.
Rev. J. L. Allison, D. D., pastor. Sunday School, 9:30 a. m. Services, 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Methodist Episcopal Church South.
Rev. J. W. Duffey, pastor. Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Epworth League services at 6:45 p. m. Services and sermon 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Methodist Protestant Church.
Rev. C. R. Strausburg, pastor. Services at 11:00 a. m. and 8 p. m. Sunday School 9:30 a. m. Christian Endeavor 6:45 p. m.

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church.
Rev. G. A. Luttrell, pastor. Sabbath School, 9:30 a. m. Services at 11 a. m., and 8:00 p. m. Epworth League 6:30 p. m.

First Baptist Church.
Rev. W. F. Watson, pastor. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. Services at 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m.

Second Baptist Church.
Rev. O. W. Triplett, pastor—Services at 10 a. m. 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Prayer services Wednesday evenings at 7:45 o'clock.

Free Methodist Church—Rev. Geo. Eakins, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Prayer service at 7:30 p. m. on Thursday.

Four residents of Cincinnati, were speeding home in an auto last night to enjoy Christmas festivities when the machine was struck by the Cincinnati Hamilton and Dayton "Indianapolis flyer" at a crossing. The auto was hurled against the house of the stationmaster, William Geisman, killing him and injuring all of the occupants of the car, two fatally.

STILL FIGHTING IN MEXICO

Battle Said to be in Progress
for Possession of Vera
Cruz.

GUITERREZ CABINET.

Impartiality Shown Between Followers of Zapata and Carranza
May Prevent Any Friction.

Washington Dec. 26—The real battle for control of the port of Vera Cruz is believed here to be in progress. Late advices to the State Department say that fighting between Carranzista and Vallista forces in progress ten miles west of Vera Cruz. The attacking columns were reported driving the Carranzistas back on their main lines of defense.

There is also severe fighting reported in the state of Tlaxcala and at Eban, near Tampico. This series of conflicts it is believed here will eventually end in successes for the Carranza sympathizers.

Meanwhile, Provisional President Guiterrez has been impartial between the followers of Zapata and Carranza, so that what might have proven a potent source of friction seemingly has been avoided.

It is known here to be the intention of the convention leaders when the conference reconvenes on January 10, to attempt to frame a comprehensive land law, which the Mexican congress will be asked to enact. With such a law in force the disbanding of the army would be simplified.

AEROPLANE CHASED AWAY.

German Aviators Attempts to Drop
Bombs in London.

London, Dec. 26—Under cover of a heavy fog a German aeroplane attempted to reach London yesterday, making the second German aerial raid on England in two days.

The German threat to "reach London by Christmas" was frustrated by the vigilance of the British flying corps, who engaged the invader in the air and drove him to sea.

The hostile aircraft reached within twenty miles of London. No bombs were dropped at any of the places where it appeared. When last seen the German after running a gauntlet of fire from the British airmen, was making speed toward the North Sea and disappeared in the fog. The visitor is believed to have been hit three or four times.

D. A. R. DANSANT.

Those who have not secured their tickets for the Dansant given by St. Vernon Chapter, D. A. R., at Elks' Hall tonight for the benefit of the Red Cross Work, can get them at the door of the hall.

A great many tickets have been secured, and many of the young set will attend, as well as the older set. A delightful evening is promised by the chapter to all who may attend. As before stated, dancing will begin at 8 o'clock, stopping promptly at 12. Refreshments will be served during the evening.

ATTENTION RED MEN.

Called meeting of Seminole Tribe No. 35, I. O. R. M., will be held at the Wigwam, Odd Fellows' Hall, at the Wigwam, Odd Fellows' Hall, on Tuesday, December 29, 1914, to confer the degrees of the order on a number of Palefaces and for general work.

Geo. K. Bender, C. of R. By order, H. H. Newton, Sachem.

Norfolk Oysters Daily at the Hotel Rammel.

LOCAL BREVITIES

A euche will be given for the benefit of the Temple Sisterhood, Tuesday, December 29th, at the Lyceum Hall. Tickets 50 cents. Handsome prizes will be given.

A fight at the intersection of King and Pitt streets about one o'clock yesterday morning, aroused people in the neighborhood. One man, who was roughly handled, was carried into a nearby store for treatment.

The window of the store of George Ayres on King street, was broken Thursday night, and three revolvers, a shot gun and several boxes of shells were taken by a thief.

W. Albert Smith, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Noble Smith, fell Wednesday night and broke his right arm just above the wrist. It was set by Dr. Klipstein.

Mr. Herbert J. Baker, Jr., has gone to Portsmouth to visit friends where he will spend the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Walter Brown, of Union Hill, New York, is spending the holidays with his parents, in Wilkes street.

ST. PAUL'S CELEBRATION.

The annual Christmas celebration of St. Paul's Sunday School was held Thursday afternoon at 4:30. The Christmas story was read by the Rev. P. P. Phillips, and a Christmas poem recited by Master Homer Bowie.

The following carols were sung: "Christmas Bells, Ring Far and Near," "While Shepherds Watched by Night," "Redeemer from Realms of the Sky," "Once in David's Royal City," and "Carol, Sweetly Carol." Stockings and boxes of nuts and candy were distributed.

WOMAN SLAIN BY SAILOR.

Norfolk, Va. Dec. 26—Enraged because he found her despondent and brooding over the marriage of the man she loved, James W. Hall, a sailor in the United States navy, shot and killed Marie Thomas, a pretty young woman, early Tuesday morning. The tragedy occurred about 2:20 o'clock in the house in which the woman lived, No. 500 Washington street. Hall was arrested.

FORGED DIVORCE PAPERS.

Authorities of Alexandria County
Making Investigation

A furor was caused at Alexandria Court House last week when a forged decree, purporting to have emanated from the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court, came to light.

On Sept. 25, 1914, some person, to date unknown, came to the Clerk's Office and procured a certified copy of a final decree entered in one of the divorce cases had in the Circuit Court, to which copy of decree the Deputy Clerk attached the customary double certificate of authentication, prescribed by Act of Congress. The forger having obtained this, then abstracted the copy of decree from the certificate and inserted in its place a forged decree purporting to grant a divorce to one Leonard T. Haney from Mary H. S. Haney, signing the false decree "Geo. H. Rucker, Clerk, by J. Kelly, D. C."

It is believed that this decree was obtained by Leonard T. Haney to be used by him in his courtship of a young lady in Washington, to whom he represented himself as a divorced man.

Commonwealth Attorney Mackey requested and obtained a special grand jury to secure an indictment against Haney, who has been located in Washington. The various discrepancies in the forged decree, to wit: The name of the alleged deputy J. Kelly; the date of the term of Court, June 10th, on which date no Circuit Court was in session and other points were cited in the evidence before the grand jury but for lack of evidence directly connecting Haney with the affair, no indictment has yet been obtained. The Commonwealth Attorney expects to pursue the matter in Washington.

Norfolk Oysters In All Styles At Rammel's Cafe.

RUSSIAN LINE STILL HOLDING

Resisting Day and Night
Onslaughts of Kaiser's
Troops.

DEAD LIE ON BANK.

Germans Effect Landing at One Point
of River—Czar Nicholas Now En
Route to the Front.

London, Dec. 26 11:56 a. m.—Christmas has come and gone without a truce on the part of any of the warring nations of Europe. While there has been no cessation of military activity, nevertheless no decisive action has occurred along either of the great battle fronts.

From Petrograd comes news that the Russians have resumed the offensive at several points in Poland and that they have captured no fewer than 11,000 prisoners.

To offset this, however, Berlin reports inactivity along the Polish front.

An Austrian army is still making a courageous effort to strike down the valley of the Nida in the direction of Carnow. British observers are of the opinion that this movement will be too late if it is a fact that the Austro-German attack in the center has really received is reported check.

Petrograd, Dec. 26—Resisting constant day and night attacks along the twenty five mile front of the Vistula river southward to Opatow, the Russian line before Warsaw continues to hold.

The banks of the Bzura and Rawka rivers which the Germans have vainly endeavored to cross, are lined with bodies of the enemy.

Massed attacks upon strong Russian positions have been repeatedly repulsed, but the efforts of the Germans continue. A strong counter attack is being directed against their lines along the Pilica river. While the Germans are directing their main assaults between Sochaczew and Gorniewice, the Russians are endeavoring to pierce the enemy's line along the Pilica.

Czar Nicholas is again en route to the front. The Czar left here last night to visit his troops in the field.

Only at one point along the Bzura river have the Germans been able to make a crossing, it is declared in Petrograd.

Re-enforcements have been hurried to that region, and the enemy is expected to be hurled back.

It is generally believed that the fighting in Poland is now rapidly approaching a crisis.

NEW ASSESSMENT DOUBTED.

Judge Thornton Said to Think it Will
be Made Next Year

According to a statement attributed to Judge J. B. T. Thornton, of the Circuit Court, by "The Commonwealth" of Alexandria county, the new assessment of real estate which is expected to take place next year will not be made. The observation of Judge Thornton took place when he announced the appointment of Harry Thomas as assessor of Alexandria county. He gave his reasons for the statement, the probable action of the General Assembly providing for an entirely new plan of taxation at its meeting next month which will do away with the necessity of having local assessors do the work for the state.

Judge Thornton is also said to have remarked that he considered it a great mistake to call upon the court to make the appointment of an assessor but that he would do his duty. He said that he had appointed Mr. Wibert five years ago and regretted that he could not do so again. He therefore appointed Mr. Thomas. It is understood that the latter will accept the position.

Messrs. S. L. Monroe and S. H. Hunt, the recently appointed assessors of Alexandria city, will commence their work shortly after the first of the year.